



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/466,640	12/20/1999	LAURA ANNE MAHAN	81395-146	1424

7590

08/05/2003

JOHN W KNOX  
BOX 11560 VANCOUVER CENTER  
2200 650 WEST GEORGIA STREET  
VANCOUVER, V6B4N8  
CANADA

EXAMINER

FILIPCZYK, MARCIN R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2171

DATE MAILED: 08/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/466,640

Applicant(s)

MAHAN ET AL.

Examiner

Marc R Filipczyk

Art Unit

2171

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 January 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

***Response to Amendment***

This action is responsive to Applicant's response filed on June 13, 2003 (paper #4). The Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) received on December 20, 1999 is acknowledged.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-22 and 29-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vora et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,623,652).

Regarding claims 1, 7-11, 17, 19, 20 and 29-32, Vora discloses an apparatus for associating information with an object in a file (fig. 2, block 201), the apparatus comprising a scheduler (fig. 7B, items 727 and 729) including a component for associating a search key (fig. 7B, keys 726 and 733 with 735) with the object in the file, wherein said scheduler is operable to schedule a search for said information using said search key for automatic execution (fig. 7B, key 726 with 735) by a search interface operable to initiate scheduled searches (fig. 2, block 209).

Regarding claims 2-4 and 12-14, Vora discloses tagging and labeling objects (fig. 6, box 615 and col. 15, lines 20-27).

Art Unit: 2171

Regarding claims 5, 6, 15, 16, 21 and 33, Vora discloses scheduling comprises storing (fig. 1, items 11 and 39) a search key in association with a time of execution at which said search is to be executed (fig. 7B, items 726, 733, 727, 729 and 735) and identifying said object (fig. 4A).

Regarding claims 18, 22 and 34, Vora discloses the search comprising a search engine (fig. 2, box 207).

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 23-28 and 35-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vora et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,623,652) in view of Barnett et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,369,840).

Regarding claims 23 and 35 Vora discloses all of the claimed subject matter as discussed above with respect to claims 20 and 32, including an internet server and a gateway (fig. 1, blocks 63 and 61, Vora), but does not expressly teach a search associated with a universal resource locator (URL). However, Stark discloses a mapping structure of a collection of computer resources (title and fig. 4, Stark) where an URL is associated with a search object (fig. 5, items 120, 122, 124 and 126, Vora). Hence, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in

Art Unit: 2171

the art at the time the invention was made to have combined Vora in view of Stark because Vora uses an internet server which could be implemented in view of Stark to associate a URL with an object. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to map URL with objects to link the desired reference of a search.

Regarding claims 24, 28, 36 and 40, Vora/Stark disclose running scripts to populate fields of a search engine (fig. 6A, items 202-214, Stark).

Regarding claims 25-27 and 37-39, Vora/Stark disclose URL and hyperlinks (fig. 5, items 142, 144, 150, 152, 154 and 156, Stark).

#### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed on June 13, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The arguments and responses are listed below.

Applicant argues on page 2 of the 7/13/2003 response that Vora et al fails to disclose "associating a search key with the object in said file", as recited in claim 1 and all the independent claims.

In response to Applicant's argument, Examiner disagrees. Figure 3A, Vora further discloses and illustrates step 201 of figure 2 previously cited by the Examiner wherein associating (searching) a search key (index) with the object (search request 1) in said file (data

Art Unit: 2171

searched) is performed (fig. 3A, item 315). Note, search request 1 (object) is defined in step 311 and based on this object the index is searched.

With respect to all the pending claims 1-40, Examiner respectfully traverses Applicant's assertion based on the discussion cited above, as such, Examiner maintains the same rejections.

***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc R Filipczyk whose telephone number is 703-305-7156. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone numbers for the

Art Unit: 2171

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

MF  
July 30, 2003

  
SAFET METJAHIC  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100